

## REMARKS

### *1. Status of claims*

Claims 99-194 are pending.

### *2. Claim rejections under obviousness-type double patenting*

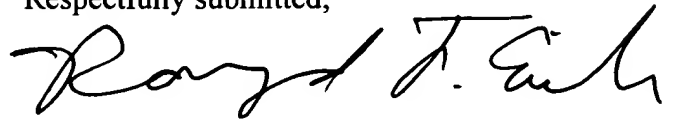
Claims 99-194 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-4 of Jerdee et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,333,087 (hereinafter "Jerdee") in view of Ching et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,859,145 (hereinafter "Ching"). Applicants present a terminal disclaimer executed by their undersigned representative, attached hereto, in order to obviate this rejection.

In addition to the terminal disclaimer, Applicants present an associate power of attorney naming their undersigned representative. The associate power of attorney is signed by Kenneth D. Goodman, who is of record in this application according to the power of attorney document filed on November 5, 1999.

*3. Closing remarks*

In conclusion, Applicants assert all pending claims 99-194 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned patent agent at (713) 934-4065 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application. The Examiner is especially invited to contact the undersigned if the attached associate power of attorney, terminal disclaimer, or both are lost or otherwise missing.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymund F. Eich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raymund" being more prominent and the last name "Eich" following in a similar style.

Raymund F. Eich, Ph.D.  
Reg. No. 42,508

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